



PRESS RELEASE

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Kitty Hawk Strike Group chefs broaden cooking skills

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Aaron Roob, Kitty Hawk public affairs

USS KITTY HAWK, At sea— More than two dozen USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and USS Cowpens (CG 63) culinary specialists (CS) were given the unique opportunity to train with chefs from the Marriot Hotel Sept. 3 to 5 when the ships stopped in Laem Chabang, Thailand.

The Navy Chef Exchange Program sent Sailors to the Marriot Hotel in nearby Pattaya, and the hotel's six chefs aboard Kitty Hawk for culinary training. This is the first time culinary specialists and Pattaya's Marriot chefs have trained together.

The CS's learned three types of Thai dishes: a soup, a curry and a noodle dish. Each cook was also given a Thai cookbook, apron and a certificate of completion.

"My goal is to get my CS's certified as chefs before they leave," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Precioso Amansec, Kitty Hawk's food service officer. "The 'work experience' certificates received from the Marriot Hotel and Spa can be applied by the CS's towards a chef certificate."

The culinary specialists who went to the Marriot were not the only ones to receive training. Chef Dennis Barton and his five sous chefs came to Kitty Hawk and helped other ship cooks prepare and serve food for Kitty Hawk's Sept. 3 reception. He also taught the culinary specialists to make Vietnamese spring rolls.

Many of Kitty Hawk's cooks are already applying their new training, Amansec said. The wardrooms recently used Thai-style spices to add flavor to their seafood dishes. Even Kitty Hawk's Commanding Officer, Capt. Ed McNamee is reaping the benefits of the chef exchange.

"I cooked Thai curry, chicken stir fry and curry-fried rice for him," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Dong Ruan, who works in the commanding officer's mess. "He told me it was the best meal he's ever had onboard."

Amansec said the culinary specialists originally planned to do a community service project with the Marriot, but after contacting Chef Barton they agreed to a chef exchange.

“We have plans to do another chef exchange the next time we visit Thailand,” said Amansec.

The strike group includes the Kitty Hawk, the aircraft squadrons and staff of Carrier Air Wing 5, the guided-missile cruisers USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and Cowpens, and Destroyer Squadron 15 staff. The group’s ships and destroyer squadron staff are based at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, and the air wing and staff are based at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

To find more news about the Kitty Hawk Strike Group, visit the Navy NewsStand at www.news.navy.mil/local/cv63/.